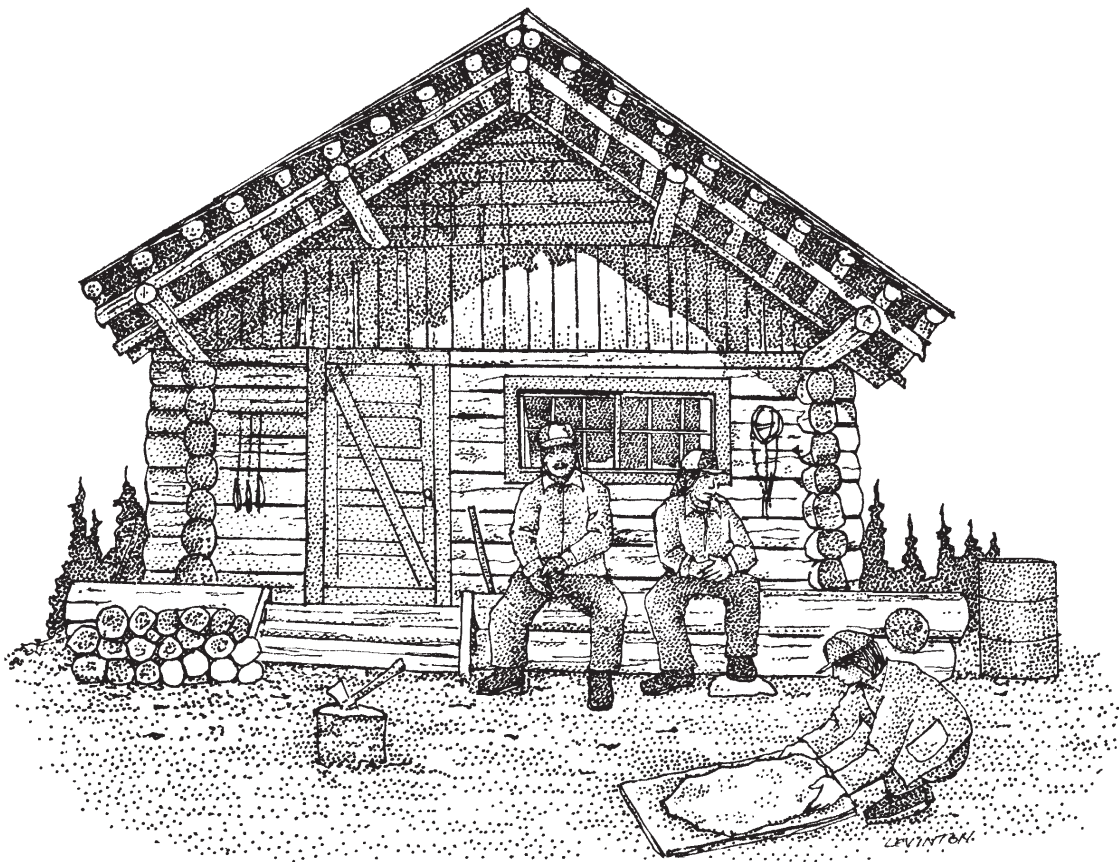


Federal Subsistence Management *In Alaska*



Many Alaskans live off the land, relying on fish, wildlife, and other wild resources. For thousands of years, Alaska Natives have used these resources for food, shelter, clothing, transportation, handicrafts, and trade. Other residents living in Alaska depend on local harvests as reliable and economic food sources.

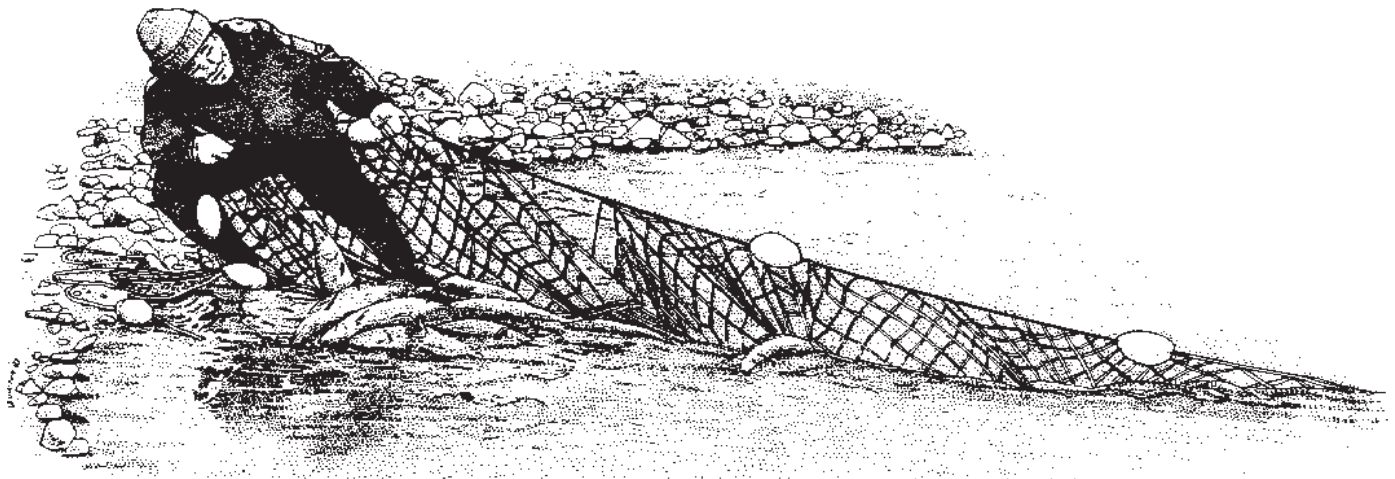
Since Statehood, Alaska's growing population has placed new and conflicting demands on natural resources. Most dramatically, the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay provided momentum for an effort to resolve the aboriginal land claims of Alaska Native people. A central focus of this movement was the protection of the hunting and fishing lifestyle, which came to be known as "subsistence".

ANILCA: The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act

In deliberations leading to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, the U.S. Congress acknowledged the importance of subsistence hunting and fishing to Alaska Natives, but provided no specific protection. By the late 1970's, more direct action was needed to protect subsistence activities in Alaska.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 requires that subsistence users have a priority over other users to take fish and wildlife on Federal public lands where a recognized consistent and traditional pattern of use exists. When it is necessary to restrict the taking of fish and wildlife on these lands, subsistence uses are given preference over other consumptive uses.

The State of Alaska managed statewide subsistence harvests until late 1989, when the Alaska Supreme Court ruled that the rural residency preference required by ANILCA violated the Alaska Constitution. Despite repeated efforts, the State has been unable to bring its regulatory framework back into compliance with ANILCA through a change in the constitution.



The Federal Subsistence Management Program



The Federal government has managed subsistence trapping, hunting, and limited fishing on Federal public lands since July 1, 1990. As directed by the 9th Circuit Court in the Katie John case, and to meet the requirements of the rural subsistence priority in Title VIII of the *Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act* (or ANILCA), the Federal subsistence management program expanded on October 1, 1999, to include subsistence fisheries on Alaskan rivers and lakes within and adjacent to Federal public lands.

The Federal Subsistence Management Program involves five Federal agencies. These are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the lead agency, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the USDA Forest Service. A Federal Subsistence Board oversees the program. The Alaska directors of the five agencies, along with a representative of the Secretary of the Interior who serves as the Chair, make up the Board. Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils and State representatives play an active role in Board deliberations.

Residents of rural areas may harvest fish and wildlife under Federal subsistence regulations if a recognized customary and traditional use of that species exists in the area of consideration. All of Alaska is considered rural, except:

- ❖ Adak;
- ❖ Anchorage (Municipality of Anchorage);
- ❖ Fairbanks North Star Borough;
- ❖ Juneau area (Juneau, West Juneau, and Douglas);
- ❖ Ketchikan area (Ketchikan City, Clover Pass, North Tongass Highway, Ketchikan East, Mountain Pass, Herring Cove, Saxman East, and parts of Pennock Island);
- ❖ Valdez; and,
- ❖ Wasilla area (Palmer, Wasilla, Sutton, Big Lake, Houston, and Bodenbutte).

Federal Subsistence Regulations

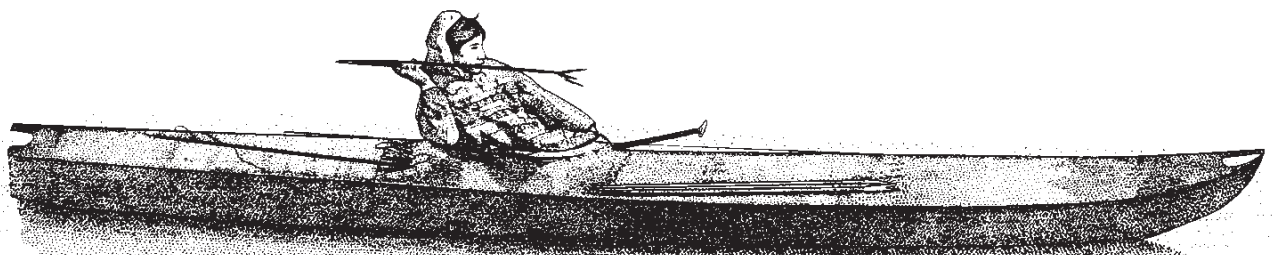


The Federal Subsistence Management Program publishes two Subsistence Management Regulations for Federal Public Lands in Alaska booklets annually.

These regulations cover the subsistence harvests of wildlife, fisheries, and shellfish on Federal public lands. The booklets contain important information on seasons, harvest limits, methods and means, and customary and traditional use determinations. The Wildlife hunting and trapping booklets are available in July, and the Fisheries booklets are available in March of each year.

Opportunities also exist to take fish and wildlife under State of Alaska hunting and fishing regulations. Often a State season is open for the same species and in the same area as a Federal subsistence hunt or fishery. The State continues to manage subsistence on State and privately owned lands and Native corporation lands.

The Federal regulations do not address the management of endangered species, migratory birds, or marine mammals. For information on endangered species, migratory birds, or marine mammals, contact the Migratory Bird Management Office (waterfowl and other migratory birds), 907-786-3423, the Marine Mammals Management Office (sea otter, polar bear, and walrus), 907-271-2394 or 800-362-5148, and the National Marine Fisheries Service, (seals, sea lion, whales, dolphins, and porpoise), 907-586-7221.



Involving the Public

Ideas and suggestions from subsistence users help us improve and administer the Federal Subsistence Management Program. You can participate by submitting proposals to change the regulations, testifying at public meetings, and providing wildlife or fishery harvest information.

Cooperative agreements between the Federal government and several Native organizations and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game help to manage some subsistence activities more effectively. These organizations work in an advisory capacity and provide technical information and biological data to help address subsistence issues. In this way, traditional and local knowledge is weighted in subsistence management decisions.

A Regional Advisory System

Alaska is divided into ten subsistence resource regions. Each region is represented by a Regional Advisory Council. These ten Regional Councils offer important opportunities for Alaskans to contribute to the management of subsistence resources. The Regional Councils develop and review proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations, and provide valuable local information to the Federal Subsistence Board and Federal Subsistence Management Program. Each Regional Council meets at least twice a year, and subsistence users can comment and offer input on subsistence issues at these meetings.

Schedules, minutes, regulations, and other information can be found on the internet at <http://www.r7.fws.gov/asm/home.html>, or by contacting the Office of Subsistence Management.

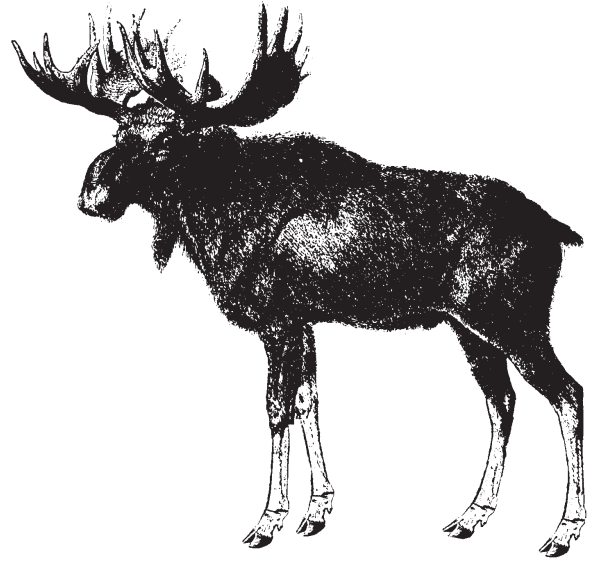
The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture appoint Regional Council members. To qualify, members must reside in the area they wish to represent and have knowledge of regional subsistence uses and needs. If you are interested in applying for membership, please contact the Regional Coordinator for your region, or call Michelle Chivers at (800) 478-1456.



Regional Coordinators

The Federal Subsistence Regional Coordinators work closely with the Regional Advisory Councils and the Federal Subsistence Board.

Each Regional Coordinator is responsible for one or two regions. They serve as contacts for the Regional Councils, Federal agency staffs and the public. Contact the Regional Coordinators for more information on the activities of each Regional Council.



Southeast, Region 1

Fred Clark, Juneau
(800) 586-7895 or (907) 586-7895
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E-mail: Fred_Clark@fs.gov.us

Southcentral, Region 2 and Seward Peninsula, Region 7

Ann Wilkinson
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Fax: (907) 786-3898
E-mail: ann_wilkinson@fws.gov

Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Region 5 Vacant

Kodiak/Aleutians, Region 3 and Bristol Bay, Region 4

Cliff Edenshaw, Anchorage
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Eastern Interior, Region 7

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E-mail: vince_mathews@fws.gov

Northwest Arctic, Region 8 and North Slope, Region 10

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*TTY or modem users may call the Federal Relay Service
toll-free on (800) 877-8337 to reach any Federal agency or program.*